Title: Method And Apparatus For Broadcast Communications

Amendment(s) to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in

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Inventor: Mueller et al.

Examiner: N/A

the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (original): A scheduling system for use in broadcasting comprising:

i) a scheduler for selecting and scheduling broadcast elements for

broadcasting; and

a user input data store for storing user input data in which the scheduler is ii)

adapted to access the user input data store and to schedule broadcast elements, the

scheduling of one or more broadcast elements being at least partially determined by

stored user input data.

2 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 1 wherein, in use, the user input

data store stores one or more user inputs.

3 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to either one of the

preceding claims Claim 1 wherein, in use, the user input data comprises data relating to

user inputs.

4 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

elaims Claim 1 wherein, in use, stored user input data comprises one or more broadcast

elements.

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5 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

claims Claim 1 wherein, in use, stored user input data identifies one or more broadcast

elements

6 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 5 wherein at least one identified

broadcast element comprises an item from a playlist.

7 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to either one of Claims Claim

5 or 6 wherein at least one identified broadcast element comprises material sourced

externally to the broadcasting system.

8 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 7 wherein at least one identified

broadcast element comprises live material.

9 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

elaims Claim 1 which further comprises an asset store for storing broadcast elements to

be scheduled by the scheduler.

10 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 9 wherein the asset store is

adapted to store data relating to the broadcast elements, in addition to storing broadcast

elements.

11 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

elaims Claim 1 which further comprises a user input processor for processing user

inputs.

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12 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 11 wherein, in use, at least one

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user input comprises a broadcast element and the user input processor comprises an

editing tool for use in editing broadcast elements.

13 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to either one of Claims Claim

11 or 12 wherein the user input processor is adapted to sort user input data according

to type.

14 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

11, 12 or 13, for use in supporting more than one broadcast channel during the same

broadcast period, wherein the user input processor is adapted to sort user input data

according to channel.

15 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

11 to 14 wherein the user input processor is adapted to parse user input data.

16 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

11 to 15 wherein, in use, stored user input data identifies at least one broadcast

element, and wherein the user input processor is adapted to measure a number of

times said broadcast element is so identified.

17 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 16 wherein the scheduler is

adapted to rank broadcast elements in accordance with the number of times the

elements are so identified.

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11 to 17 wherein, in use, the user input processor is connected to deliver processed

user inputs for storage in the user input data store for use by the scheduler in

scheduling broadcast elements.

19 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

11 to 18 wherein the system is provided with a first output for scheduled broadcast

elements for broadcasting and a second output for processed user inputs and/or

broadcast elements.

20 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

claims Claim 1, further comprising time dependent control means to control the action of

the scheduler according to time period.

21 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 20 wherein the time period

comprises part of a day, such that the action of the scheduler can be controlled to be

different at different times of day.

22 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 20 wherein the time period

comprises one or more days, such that the action of the scheduler can be adjusted to

be different on at least two different days.

23 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

20, 21 or 22 wherein the scheduler is adapted to select and schedule broadcast

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elements, and wherein the time dependent control means is adapted to control the

selection of said one or more broadcast elements in a time dependent manner.

24 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of Claims Claim

20 to 23 wherein the scheduler is adapted to schedule broadcast elements by applying

at least one rule, and wherein the time dependent control means is adapted to control

the rule or rules applied in a time dependent manner.

25 (currently amended): A scheduling system according to any one of the preceding

claims Claim 1 adapted for connection to a communication system for receiving user

inputs.

26 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 25 having a response time of the

order of ten minutes between receipt of a user input and delivery of a response which is

at least partly dependent on the result of a scheduling operation by the scheduler in

relation to the received user input.

27 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 26 wherein said delivery of a

response comprises broadcasting of a broadcast element.

28 (original): A scheduling system according to Claim 26 wherein said delivery of a

response comprises the output of a communication in reply to the user input.

29 (original): A broadcast assembly system for assembling broadcast elements for

broadcast, the system comprising an asset store for storing one or more broadcast

elements, and an asset processor for processing broadcast elements, wherein the asset

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store, in use, stores at least one rule or algorithm for use in assembling broadcast

elements for broadcast and the asset processor provides at least one tool for

processing broadcast elements by editing.

30 (original): A broadcast assembly system according to Claim 29, the system further

comprising a scheduler for assembling broadcast elements by scheduling.

31 (currently amended): A broadcast assembly system according to either one of

Claims Claim 29 or 30 wherein at least one stored rule or algorithm comprises a

scheduling criterion for use in scheduling broadcast elements for broadcast.

32 (original): A broadcast assembly system according to Claim 31 wherein the

scheduling criterion comprises a rule or algorithm for responding to at least one user

input.

33 (currently amended): A broadcast assembly system according to either one of

Claims Claim 31 or 32, wherein the asset processor comprises means to create or

modify at least one scheduling criterion.

34 (currently amended): A broadcast assembly system according to any one of

Claims Claim 32 to 33 wherein at least one stored rule or algorithm is time dependent.

35 (currently amended): A broadcast assembly system according to any one of

Claims Claim 29 to 34, wherein the asset processor comprises means for creating or

modifying one or more broadcast elements.

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36 (original): An interactive gaming system comprising a broadcast assembly system

according to Claim 35.

37 (currently amended): A broadcast assembly system according to any one of

Claims Claim 32 to 36, further comprising a user input processor, and wherein the

scheduling criterion comprises a rule or algorithm for responding to processed user

inputs.

38 (original): A broadcasting system comprising:

i) an asset store for storing broadcast elements;

ii) a user input data store for storing user input data:

(iii an asset processor for processing broadcast elements; and

iv) a user input processor for processing user inputs,

wherein the user input processor is adapted to process user input to provide user

input data for storage in the user input data store and the asset processor is adapted to

process broadcast elements for storage in the asset store.

39 (original): A broadcasting system according to Claim 38 wherein the asset processor

comprises an encoder for encoding broadcast elements.

40 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to either one of Claims

Claim 38 er 39 wherein the asset processor comprises an editing tool for editing

broadcast elements.

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41 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to any one of Claims Claim

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38 to 40 wherein the asset processor comprises a programming tool for programming

data and/or processes relating to broadcast elements.

42 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to any one of Claims Claim

38 to 41 wherein the asset processor comprises a programming tool for programming

scheduling criteria.

43 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to any one of Claims Claim

38 to 42 wherein, in use, stored user input data comprises at least one broadcast

element.

44 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to any one of Claims Claim

38 to 43 arranged to provide more than one channel for broadcasting broadcast

elements.

45 (original): A broadcasting system according to Claim 44 arranged such that two or

more channels each carry a unique set of broadcast elements.

46 (original): A broadcasting system according to Claim 44 arranged such that two or

more channels share at least one broadcast element from the asset store.

47 (original): A broadcasting system according to Claim 44 arranged such that two or

more channels share at least one broadcast element from stored user input data.

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48 (currently amended): A broadcasting system according to Claim 38, for supporting

more than one independently interactive broadcasting channel.

49 (currently amended): A user input processor for use with a broadcasting system

according to any one of Claims Claim 38 to 48, having an input for receiving user inputs,

at least one processing tool for processing received user inputs, a first output for

processed user inputs for use by the broadcasting system in scheduling broadcast

elements and a second output for processed user inputs.

50 (original): A user input processor according to Claim 49 wherein the second output is

adapted for connection to the Internet.

51 (currently amended): A user input processor according to either one of Claims

Claim 49 er 50, for use in supporting more than one broadcast channel during the same

broadcast period, wherein the user input processor is adapted to sort user inputs

according to channel.

52 (original): A method of broadcasting, said method comprising the steps of:

i) receiving a list of broadcast elements;

ii) receiving a user input relating to at least one broadcast element, and

(iii responding to the received user input.

53 (original): A method according to Claim 52 wherein a received user input comprises

at least one broadcast element in addition to the listed broadcast elements.

54 (currently amended): A method according to either one of Claims Claim 52 or 53

wherein a received user input comprises at least one identifier for a broadcast element

from the list.

55 (currently amended): A method according to either one of Claims Claim 53 or 54

wherein step iii) comprises broadcasting the additional broadcast element together with

at least one broadcast element from the list.

56 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 55

wherein step iii) comprises outputting a reply to the user input.

57 (currently amended): A method according to Claims Claim 53 and 56 wherein said

reply comprises an estimated broadcast time for the additional broadcast element.

58 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 57

wherein step iii) comprises re-ordering the list of broadcast elements.

59 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 58

wherein step iii) is performed in an hour or less of step ii).

60 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 59

wherein step iii) is performed in ten minutes or less after step ii).

61 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 59

wherein step iii) is performed in two minutes or less after step ii).

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wherein step iii) is performed in ten seconds or less after step ii).

63 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 52 to 62.

further comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one user input identifying at least one of the broadcast iv)

elements on the list; and

generating a re-ordered list of programme broadcast from said list, in v)

accordance with the at least one user input.

64 (original): A method of assembling broadcast elements for broadcasting, said

method comprising the steps of:

i) processing at least one broadcast element and loading the processed

broadcast element to an asset store:

(ii receiving, via a user input, data relating to at least one broadcast element

in the asset store; and

(iii storing one or more rules or algorithms for use in assembling a set of

broadcast elements for broadcast in accordance with received data.

65 (original): A method according to Claim 64, further comprising the step of

assembling a set of broadcast elements for broadcast in accordance with received data

and at least one stored rule or algorithm.

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66 (currently amended): A method according to either one of claims Claim 64 or 65

wherein at least one stored rule or algorithm is time dependent such that an assembled

set of broadcast elements is different at different times.

67 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 64 to 66,

further comprising the step of receiving, via a user input, at least one broadcast

element, and wherein an assembled set of broadcast elements comprises at least one

broadcast element received via a user input.

68 (currently amended): A method according to any one of Claims Claim 64 to 67

which further comprises the step of broadcasting an assembled set.